1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
22.	Punjab	3.3	4.9	3.8	2.9	14.0	5.0
23.	Rajasthan	1.2	0.1	0.7	2.8	2.9	2.9
24.	Sikkim	2.8	1.5	2.4	3.6	4.3	3.7
25.	Tamil Nadu	1.2	1.1	1.2	2.9	4.8	3.5
26.	Tripura	9.6	32.0	13.3	16.6	56.8	28.0
27.	Uttaranchal	2.0	0.4	1.3	4.2	10.2	5.4
28.	Uttar Pradesh	0.7	0.3	0.6	3.5	2.5	3.3
29.	West Bengal	2.2	3.3	2.5	5.6	8.4	6.2
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	3.7	12.3	6.2	6.5	17.2	8.8
31.	Chandigarh	2.5	4.8	2.6	3.1	7.5	4.0
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3.1	3.6	3.3	1.3	9.1	3.0
33.	Daman & Diu	0.4	0	0.3	2.8	3.3	3.0
34.	Lakshadweep	0.9	57.1	7.5	11.1	51.5	25.0
35.	Pondicherry	9.4	3.2	7.0	4.1	19.5	8.1
	ALL INDIA	1.6	1.8	1.7	3.8	6.9	4.5

**As per usual status approach.*

Unemployment rate is the percentage of unemployment with reference to Labour Force.

Reduction in the rate of interest on EPF

829. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of interest in repect of EPE during each of the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are considering further reduction in the rate of interest;

(c) if so, the details thereof.

(d) what is the justification for recourse to such action, while the banks and financial institutions are increasing the rate of interest on loans and that the rate of inflation is going up; and

(e) whether it would be feasible to disband EPFO to give charge of EPF to nationalized banks, to reduce cost of the administration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The rate of interest declared by the Government for the years 2003-04 & 2004-05 was 9.5 per cent, while for the year 2005-06 it was 8.5 per cent.

(b) The rate of interest in a given year is declared by the Government in consultation with the Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund, which in turn, makes recommendations on the basis of the projected incomes and projected interest payment liabilities. The recommendations of the Central Board of Trustees, (EPF) regarding rate of interest to be paid on Employees' Provident Fund for 2006-07 has not been received by the Government so far.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

(e) The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation is a Social Security Organisation and the activities of the Organisation include coverage of establishments and extension of benefits to the eligible employees, collecting/crediting of contributions and delivery of benefits in the form of Provident Fund, Assurance Benefits and Monthly Pension, etc. Hence, it would not be feasible to disband EPFO and give the charge of EPF to nationalized banks.

Reflection of retail prices in Consumer Price Index

830. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been complaints from trade unions that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) does not reflect the actual retail prices of essential commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the views of Labour Ministry are obtained while revising the CPI; and